

ALYSIA STEELE

Associate Professor
University of Mississippi
School of Journalism & New Media
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DEGREES

Ph.D. student- majoring in U.S. History Since the Civil War. Enrolled part-time while teaching and writing second book. Minor in Gender Studies and African American History. Expected graduation 2023.
M.A. in Photography, Multimedia Management, Ohio University, 2010
B.A. in Journalism, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1997

Certifications

Podcasting - Listen Up! Grow Your Audience, Knight Center Podcasting Certificate, Dec. 2018
Podcasting - script writing/producing - Knight Center Podcasting Certificate, Dec. 2016
Podcasting Certificate – University of California Berkeley (Advanced Media Institute), Jan. 2016

TEACHING

2020 - **Associate Professor**, University of Mississippi, School of Journalism and New Media
2014-2020 **Assistant Professor**, University of Mississippi, Meek School of Journalism and New Media
2012-2014 **Journalist-in-Residence**, University of Mississippi, Meek School of Journalism and New Media

Courses taught: Jour 101 - Introduction to Mass Communications
Jour 102 - Introduction to Multimedia Writing (beginning journalism)
Jour 273 - Creative Visual Thinking (Layout & Design)
Jour 375 - Photojournalism
Jour 403 - Advanced Photojournalism (multimedia production) Created new curriculum.
Jour 500 - Journalism Innovation
Jour 580 - Podcasting. Created new curriculum

Computer software: Adobe Creative Suite - InDesign, Photoshop, Audition, Premiere Pro
Final Cut Pro. Canon digital cameras & Zoom recorders. Microsoft Office.

2009-2010 **Graduate Student Teacher**, Ohio University.
Course taught: Introduction to Publication Layout & Design
and senior producer for award-winning student online publication *Soul of Athens*.

PUBLISHED WORK & IN-PROGRESS

2021 **Just as Much of Me: Memoir of a Black Photojournalist and Biracial Daughter (BOOK-IN-PROGRESS)** My memoir. Completed first manuscript draft sent to agent. Book proposal expected to be completed by Summer 2021.

2019-present **COTTON: Voices from the Cotton Fields in Mississippi (BOOK-IN-PROGRESS)** Second nonfiction book of oral histories about cotton from the Mississippi Delta and surrounding regions.

2019-2020 **Curated Photo Exhibition** - Mississippi Arts + Experience Museum, Meridian, MS
Two-person show and presentation about cotton to display Sept. 2019 - January 2020

2018 Steele, Alysia. "Delta Sisters Dive Deep Into Storied Region." Book Review of *Realizing Our Place: Southern Women in a Mythologized Land*, Catherine Egly Waggoner and Laura Egly Taylor. USA TODAY NETWORK. 31 July 2018.

2017 Scalawag magazine featured two oral histories from Delta Jewels.

[Measure of Progress: The Clyde Kennard Story](#). Directed and produced by Alysia Burton Steele. Co-produced by Bobby D. Steele, Jr. Short film for University of Southern Mississippi freshmen orientation, 2017.

2016 [Boo Knows Music](#) and [Faces of Delta Blues, 2016](#). Two short films directed and produced by Alysia Burton Steele. Co-produced by Bobby D. Steele, Jr. Short film for Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University's International Conference on the Blues.

Online photo exhibition [LENSCRATCH](#), curated show. Mississippi photographers' work highlighted.

2015 Burton Steele, Alysia, [DELTA JEWELS: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom](#), (New York: Hachette, 2015). A collection oral histories & formal portraits of Mississippi Delta elder/church women of life during the Jim Crow era, including civil rights activist Mrs. Myrlie Evers. Drove 6,000 miles to interview 54 women.

BOOK FEATURED:

1. Freedman, Samuel, "[Chronicling Mississippi's 'Church Mothers,' and Getting to Know a Grandmother,](#)" The New York Times, August 24, 2014
2. Penrice, Ronda Racha, "[Photojournalist Alysia Burton Steele Finds Her 'Delta Jewels,'](#)" NBC.com, 2015.
3. [USA Today](#), April 4, 2015
4. Ihejirika, Maudlyne, "[In search for grandmother, author finds many 'church mothers,'](#)" Chicago Sun-Times, June 24, 2016
5. [Garden & Gun, 2015](#)
6. [The Free-lance Star, 2015](#)
7. Poole, Sheila, "A Tribute to Women in the Mississippi, Delta," The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#),
8. [Theroot.com \(owned by Washington Post\), 2015](#)
9. Watkins, Billy, "[Author follows Destiny to the Delta,](#)" The Clarion Ledger, July 7, 2015
10. [Mississippi Folklife, 2016](#)
11. [Southern Foodways Alliance "Gravy" Podcast, 2015.](#)
12. [Southern Living, May 2014 \(six pages highlighted work\)](#)

2015 BOOK FESTIVAL PRESENTATIONS

Miami Book Festival International, November 2015
Southern Book Festival (Nashville), October 2015
Decatur Book Festival (Atlanta), September 2015
Atlanta Book Club Conference, August 2015
Mississippi Book Festival, August 2015

2013 Photography for [Bookriot](#) article "A Literary Guide to Oxford by Emily Gatlin. Photo of William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. 13 November 2013.

2012 Lifeline of Ohio
Designed organization's 2012 official poster with photographs commissioned to take the entire year of 2011. Gallery-sized photos are hanging in headquarters office, including the boardroom.

American Federation of Teachers
Published in organization's national magazine

2011-2012 Dispatch Niche Publications, Columbus, Ohio
Photojournalist and multimedia producer for three magazine publications.

2010 National Urban League, New York, NY
Designed the official 100th commemorative poem booklet written by Dr. Maya Angelou, which was given to all of the Fortune 500 corporate-sponsors as a gift from the National Urban League.

2008-2010 Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Soul of Athens Graduate Student Teacher, Multimedia Producer and Lead Interactive Magazine Designer for award-winning student [website](#).

1999 Photography for book *One Family at a Time: Twenty Give years of Building Houses and Hope*

by Habitat for Humanity International, (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999). 25th anniversary coffee table book. Volunteered six weeks' vacation to document life in South Africa, Uganda and Ivory Coast.

EXPERIENCE

My practical working skills as a photojournalist, photo editor, deputy director of photography and multimedia producer for newspapers and magazines for 13 years have enriched my lectures and teaching style to help students learn best practices in the industry. My work has been published and shared throughout the U.S. and adds valuable insight in teaching.

2010-2012 Staff Photographer and Multimedia Producer, The Dispatch Niche Publications, Columbus, Ohio
2006-2008 Deputy Director of Photography and Enterprise Picture Editor, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta
2004-2006 Night Photo Editor, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas
1999-2004 Photojournalist and Picture Editor - The Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, Ohio

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY

2020-2021 **Second and third reader for two undergraduate honor's theses.** Every year I have written letters for several students for graduate schools or for employment.

Committees - Graduate faculty, Tenure & Promotion, and Diversity

2017-2020 *Coordinator & Founder*, organized three annual [Lens Collective](#) multimedia workshops. Where eight universities, 38 -40 students and 15 faculty members/journalists came together to mentor students on multimedia videos. Students had less than 24 hours to document and produce videos. One student production placed in Oxford Film Festival, with monetary award and distribution contract with PBS. Four were selected to air on Martin Luther King Day celebration "Mississippi Monday Movies." Nine other films accepted into Clarksdale Film Festival. Stories this year focused on the civil rights movement. Every year student projects place in state and national competitions.

Guest Speaker, Gender Studies graduate class - Women in Journalism and Biases They Face.

Presenter, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, National Endowment for Humanities. Spoke at two programs at Millsaps College and Delta State University.

Committees - Contests, Ad hoc Committee, Diversity, Undergraduate Curriculum (2019-2020)

2017 **Committees** - Scholarships, Graduate Studies and Diversity Committee member for journalism school.

2016-2017 **Faculty Senate** (two-year term)

Lead instructor for photojournalism classes, 2017 - present

Panel speaker, National Endowment for the Humanities panel speaker - Civil Rights Literacy and the Common Good - University of Mississippi.

Member, Journalism Scholarship Committee - team effort reviewing student criteria and reading essays.

Presenter, Youth Summit Storytelling and Social Justice workshop, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation

Guest teacher, Rising Horizons - taught interviewing skills to Rising 4th and 5th graders summer camp

Volunteer, photographing three subjects for book *Delta Epiphany* by colleague Ellen Meacham. Spent a full day in Delta with author.

Coordinator multimedia workshop [LensCollective.org](#) that involved 28 students from 8 universities who produced multimedia in one day and produced in half a day. Nine months planning. Also created and helped code website for hosting students' work.

Scholar's Day recruiting table, spend several hours answering recruiting questions

Mentor - University of Mississippi Association of Black Journalists - reviewing resumes and websites

Curator, student photo exhibition - selected, framed and hung student photography throughout building [ESPN TV interview](#) for SEC sports film on student-athlete Johnny Neumann

Academic advisor for over 50 students every semester

Advisor for honor student's thesis, 2017

Second-reader for honor student's thesis, 2016 and 2017

- 2015 Photo exhibition Delta Jewels – SarahFest (women’s rights festival)
Committee member for graduate student thesis.
- 2014-2015 *Lecturer* for two years, Southern Foodways Alliance’s oral history workshop. Taught best practices for interviewing and photographing subjects, and providing technological advice for equipment.
- Took three journalism students to Allegheny College (Penn.) for intensive multimedia workshop, collaborating with three colleges, with a total of 50 students. Each team recorded a multimedia (audio/video) project in one day and produced video second day. Based off that experience, one of my students was offered a photojournalism internship at San Diego Star-Tribune.
- Committee member: Technology, Website and Student Contest faculty committees
Help advise school on photography/audio equipment, review and recommend student work for state and national contests and research and post internships listings from various sources/websites.
- 2014 Coordinator in Strategic Planning Committee Engage/Inspire students in journalism school.
- Organized and photographed faculty for journalism school website and staff at the Student Media Center.
- Drove 7 hours to take three photojournalism students CPOY.org (College Photographer of the Year) competition to University of Missouri. Students were given opportunity to watch judging and talk with photojournalism industry leaders from National Geographic, The New York Times and L. A. Times.
- Proposed and curator of student gallery throughout halls of Meek School of Journalism and New Media – to showcase student work and boost engagement within school.
- Taught basic photojournalism and Photoshop workshops to Southern Foodways Alliance oral historians. Taught Photoshop to high school seniors for MSPA (high school journalism program)
- Helped edit over 15, 000 photos for student in-depth journalism magazine DEEP SOUTH, which produced the top national SND design award for student layout and design.

SERVICE COMMUNITY

- 2021 *National Judge* - two-week commitment for the [78th Annual Pictures of Year International](#) (POYi) contest, arguably the oldest, most prestigious photo competition in the world. Lost count of how many photographs for the four major categories: Spot News, General News, COVID-19 News Picture Story, and Photographer of the Year, local. Must have reviewed over 10,000 photographs. Live streamed for 16 years.
- Guest Lecturer*, Boise State University’s non-fictional undergraduate writing class for professor Kim Cross. Spoke with class for two hours about the art of interviewing, importance of transcription, finding sources, and narrative storytelling best practices/strategies.
- 2020 *Guest Lecturer*, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, via Zoom due the COVID pandemic. Presented scholarship and best practices for graduate oral history HIST670: Intro to Oral History class.
- Guest Lecturer*, Baylor University, via Zoom due the COVID pandemic. Presented scholarship and best interviewing practices for undergraduate journalism class.
- 2018 *Judge*, [National Press Photographers Association’s \(national\) Best of Photojournalism Awards](#). Served as on judge’s panel for picture editing categories. Contest held at Ohio University
- Guest Lecturer*, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (alma mater). Presentation of Delta Jewels, oral history and spoke in two classes in January 2018.
- 2017 *Presenter*, [Atlanta Photojournalism Seminar](#) presentation Storytelling with oral histories.
- Presenter and volunteer* - Taught week-long reading summer camp for American Literacy Corporation in

my hometown - Harrisburg, PA. Taught 4th-10th graders how to do oral histories, collected their stories and published their books

Keynote speaker for Jackson State University's School of Communication's graduating award program "Art from the Vault Conversations" - panel member at University of Mississippi Museum event
Was video subject for Visit Mississippi (state) tourism video. One of five artists highlight for state tourism
Speaker, [Natchez Literary Celebration](#), speaker on oral history & spoke at Natchez High School

Keynote speaker, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, created teaching matrix, prep questions and curriculum for school project on oral history assignment. Partnered with LINKS Magnolia Chapter and Morehouse College - Division of King Papers

2016 *Panelist*, "Artist from the Vault" community engagement program, University of Mississippi's museum
Board of Directors, Mississippi Historical Society, nonfiction book award committee member, 3-year term as board member.

[TEDxJackson](#) - TEDTALK Presenter in Jackson, Mississippi
Faculty, Welcome the Stranger journalism conference, Allegheny College, Allegheny, Penn.

2015 [18-month partnership](#) with Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and Delta Center for Culture & Learning. *Speaker*, Delta Jewels and oral history presentation mentoring to visiting Illinois high school students. **17 presentations in community engagement programs throughout Mississippi Delta:**

1. Clarksdale Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Clarksdale
2. New Town Missionary Baptist Church, Charleston
3. Henry P. Seymour Public Library, Sunflower County
4. Triangle Cultural Center, Yazoo City
5. Ruleville Community House, Ruleville
6. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, Mound Bayou
7. Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, D.C.
8. The Delta Center, Clarksdale
9. Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena
10. Jackson State University's Fannie Lou Hamer Institute and Margaret Walker Center
11. Delta State University, Cleveland
12. Southern Cultural Center, Vicksburg
13. Alcorn State University's Wesley Foundation, Port Gibson area
14. University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
15. St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Cleveland
16. Holmes Community College, Grenada
17. Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center, Jackson

2015 *Volunteer*, teaching oral history session on interviewing, photojournalism at Jackson State University
Lecturer, Taught eight-hour oral history workshop at Vanderbilt University - Scarritt Bennett Center.
Panel speaker - Martin Luther King, Jr. University of Mississippi Law School program
Presenter, Allegheny College "Honoring Ida" journalism conference, Allegheny College, Allegheny, Penn.

2014 Volunteered to photograph official staff/faculty portraits for William Winter Institute of Racial Reconciliation, a nonprofit organization on campus for racial healing and education.

Lectured two sessions about importance of storytelling through audio and video for MSPA (Mississippi) high school program and taught basic Photoshop technique workshop, University of Mississippi program.

2013 Skype mentoring and bi-annual visits to at-risk high school students at Albany Leadership Charter High School for Girls in Albany, NY.

Taught a Photoshop Workshop for SPJ Region 12 Conference, Oxford, Miss.
Judged picture editing for International Regional Magazine Awards (IRMA).
Taught media trends workshop for high schoolers at Mississippi Press Association yearly convention in Biloxi, Miss.

GRANTS

- 2018 *Sarah Isom Fellowship*, teaching Gender Studies classes, \$10,000
2017 *Recipient*, Mississippi Humanities Council, Oral history grant \$2,000
Faculty SEED Grant (writing and teaching award), University of Mississippi, \$5,000

AWARDS

- 2021 [Distinguished Alumni Award](#) for Indiana University of Pennsylvania - highest award from university
- 2019 Gender Studies award winner, acknowledgment as LGBTQ+ educator of support on campus
- 2018 [National Humanities Alliance](#) recognized Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership in national website of highly effective community engagement programs in the country.
- 2017 Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area's Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership receives National Park Service [Centennial Award](#) for community engagement. and Secretary of Interior as
- 2016 [2016 Recipient of Preserver of Mississippi Culture Award](#), Mississippi Humanities Council, funded by Congress through The National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 2015 **Ofield Dukes Educator of the Year Award**, National Black Public Relations Society
Finalist, Jessie Redmon Fauset Book award in nonfiction
- 2012 **Society of Professional Journalists of Ohio**, Second Place, Pictorial and General News Picture Story photography awards.
- 2006 **Pulitzer Prize** - Breaking News for Hurricane Katrina, Staff award at The Dallas Morning News. Was picture editor who decided to send staff to New Orleans to cover hurricane.
- 2004 **James Gordon Understanding Award**, Excellence in Photographic Project. Month-long documenting life in refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya
- 2004 **Lifetime Achievement Award**, Lifeline of Ohio. Award for photo essay on organ donation.
- 1997-2004 Numerous photojournalism awards from Michigan Press Photographers Association, Ohio National Press Photographers Association and Picture Editing in National Category for National Press Photographers Association

APPEARANCES

- 2018 [Mississippi Humanities Speaker's Bureau speaking engagements](#)
Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, MS
Louisville Mississippi Library, Louisville, MS
Pontotoc High School, Pontotoc, MS
Northeast Community College, Booneville, MS
- 2017 [Speaker](#), Thacker Mountain Radio live show, Tupelo, Mississippi - statewide national PBS show.
- [Mississippi Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau Delta Jewels Oral History](#)
Speaker, Neshoba County Library Lunch Lecture Series, Philadelphia, Mississippi
Speaker, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority cotillion mentoring program, Tupelo, Mississippi
Speaker, League of Women Voters, Jackson, Mississippi
Juneteenth Speaker- Museum of the Mississippi Delta, Greenwood, Mississippi
Speaker, NAACP event, Raymond, Mississippi
Keynote lunch speaker, Port Gibson Gospel Festival, Port Gibson, Mississippi

- 2015-2016 *Speaker*, American University presentation of Delta Jewels and lecturing a class
Speaker, Penn State University, presentation of Delta Jewels and lecturing a class
Speaker, West Virginia University, presentation of Delta Jewels and photo exhibition
Speaker, [Hattiesburg Arts Council](#), presentation of Delta Jewels and oral history workshop
TechxJxn, presenter in Science and mobile devices workshop, Jackson State University
Traveling photo exhibition of DELTA JEWELS. Teaching oral history and best audio practices
[Author Presentation](#) - Thacker Mountain Radio - live radio show - Sumner, Mississippi
Presenter, Delta State University – Winning the Race, diversity conference
Photo exhibition, book signing and multimedia presentation in Cleveland, Miss.
Presenter, Ohio University - Photo exhibition, book signing and multimedia presentation in Athens, Ohio
Presenter, Jackson State University, Jackson Miss. - interviewing/oral history best practices
Lunch series presenter, Oxford Public Library, Oxford, Miss - Delta Jewels presentation and book signing
Lunch series presenter, Columbus (MS) Public Library, Delta Jewels presentation
Premiere author book signing Square Books in Oxford, Miss.
Speaker, Point Park University (Pittsburgh, PA) - Oral history, photojournalism presentation of Delta Jewels, reviewed and critiqued student portfolios
Guest lecturer, Southern Foodways Alliance, teaching oral history summer workshop
- Podcast featuring Delta Jewels, award-winning [“Gravy”](#) podcast by Southern Foodways Alliance
Live TV presentation, Rainbow Coalition with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Chicago
TV interview on Mississippi Public Broadcasting- Marshall Ramsey’s show, [“Conversations”](#)
Two Live Radio Interviews, Atlanta’s National Public Radio 90.1, Lois Reitzes show, [“City Lights.”](#)
Lunch Series Presenter, Mississippi State Archives, Delta Jewels presentation
- 2014 *Presenter*, lunch series on Delta Jewels - Southern Studies, University of Mississippi
Speaker, Overby Series, University of Mississippi, Meek School of Journalism and New Media
Panelist, Association of Food Journalist convention, Memphis, Tenn. - oral history and food stories
Photo exhibition, Gammill Gallery, University of Mississippi

CONFERENCES

- 2018 *Keynote Speaker*, Mississippi Art Commission’s 50th anniversary, Jackson, Mississippi
Panelist, Oral History Association, Montreal, Canada. “Art and Oral History” paper presentation.
Presenter, Indiana University of Pennsylvania’s conference Media Summit, April 2018
- 2017 *Participant*, Archer City (Texas) Nonfiction Writers Workshop - week-long workshop on writing
- Presenter*, Oral History Association - Call for Papers facilitated conversation. Proposal accepted - Minneapolis, MN
- Panelist*, Association of African American Museum annual conference, Call for Papers Proposal facilitated conversation proposal accepted - Washington, D.C.
- Presenter*, Women in Higher Education in Mississippi Network, Jackson, Mississippi
Speaker, NYT best-selling author Bishop T.D. Jakes’ Pisgah annual workshop for oral history
90-minute presentation. Sold out of book in less than 30 minutes.
Presenter, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Natchez, Mississippi
Keynote speaker, Memphis Theological Seminary annual Wharton Luncheon conference
Presenter, National Park Service, southeast regional annual training, oral history partnerships, Atlanta
- 2015 [Docu-Series about Delta Jewels](#) from NYT Best-Selling author Bishop T.D. Jakes. Video accompanied his book’s release and video highlighting my work received over 20,000 views.
- 2013 *Presenter*, J/I Conference - University of Florida

MEMBERSHIPS

Kappa Tau Alpha Honor Society - University of Mississippi inducted

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society - Indiana University of Pennsylvania inducted

AEJMC - (Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication), task force leader in Visual Communication and professional member, 2016

OHA - (Oral History Association), professional member, 2017 - 2020

NPPA - (National Press Photographers Association), professional member, off & on for 15 years - to present

APPM (Associated Press Photo Managers) - Board of Directors, National Education Representative, 2015-2017

Mississippi Historical Society - Board of Directors, nonfiction book award committee member, 2016-2019

TRAINING

2020 Three 3-hour webinars (during Covid) through National Council for History Education
“Slavery and Resistance in the Atlantic World” by Luis Martinez-Fernandez on July 29, 2020; Teaching the History and Controversy Surrounding Confederate Monuments” by Kevin M. Levin on July 22, 2020; and “Rethinking Black History” by LaGarrett King on July 20, 2020.

2017 Attended AEJMC annual conference, Chicago
OHA annual conference, Minneapolis

2016-2018 **Certifications**
Podcasting - Listen Up! Grow Your Audience, Knight Center Podcasting Certificate, Dec. 2018
Podcasting script writing/producing - Knight Center Podcasting Certification, Dec. 2016
Podcasting – University of California Berkeley (Advanced Media Institute), Jan. 2016

REFERENCES

Stan Alost
Associate Professor, Ohio University - School of Visual Communication
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Curt Chandler
Lecturer, Penn State University - College of Communications
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Rolando Herts, Ph.D.
Director, Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University
and Director for the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area
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